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Weekly Summary

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The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents.

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10 Argentina: Anti-guerrilla Campaign

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Comments and queries on the contents of this publication are welcome. They may be directed to the editor of the Weekly Summary,

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Army General Anaya announces start of guerrilla operation.

ARGENTINA: ANTI-GUERRILLA CAMPAIGN

The army has begun a massive anti-guerrilla operation in the northern part of the country, but the only information on its progress is coming from communiques issued by military spokesmen. As usual, these reports consist only of the number of arms caches destroyed and suspected guerrillas detained.

Some 5,000 army troops and federal police are combing the jungles and mountains of Tucuman Province in search of about 400 members of the Marxist Peoples' Revolutionary Army. At least one skirmish occurred last week when guerrillas ambushed a patrol. One army officer and three insurgents reportedly were killed in this clash.

Army spokesmen are stressing that civilians in the area are cooperating with the troops by providing information, and one officer stated that several "foreigners" had been arrested. There has been no official announcement on how long the campaign will last, but one general commented that the army would stay in the struggle "as long as it considered necessary." Interior Minister Rocamora stated last week that the counter-insurgency operation might move into other provinces.

The extremists have responded to the campaign by stepping up terrorist actions in Buenos Aires. Last weekend, at least eight persons were killed in a new wave of attacks. Also, in a move to attract international attention and embarrass the government, the guerrillas declared a 1,500-square-mile area of Tucuman Province a "liberated area" and have called for international protection in accordance with the Geneva Convention.

It is doubtful that the army's operation will turn up much. Rumors that it was to occur have been circulating for several weeks, so that the guerrillas have had plenty of time to prepare. Also, the army has not had a great deal of counter-insurgency training or experience. Unless small-unit commando tactics are used, the security forces are likely to have little luck in cornering any real guerrillas.

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